

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI Sadao, et al

- Defendants -

A F F I D A V I T

TAKAKURA TADASHI

Having first duly sworn an oath as on the attached sheet, in accordance with the procedure prevailing in my country, I hereby depose as follows:

I, Takakura Tadashi, was born in February 1903, and reside now in Tokyo, Bunkyo-ku, Otsukanana-Machi No. 57. I was appointed chief of the Agriculture Section of the Agriculture Ministry of Manchoukuo in October 1941. I was transferred to the post of chief of the Planning Section of the General Affairs Board in July 1943. In May 1945, upon a change in the official system, my post was changed to Vice-Chief of the Planning Bureau of the General Affairs Board, which I retained until the Japanese surrender.

(1) During my tenure of office as Chief of the Agriculture Section of the Agriculture Ministry, I participated in the drawing up of the 2d 5-year plan of industrial construction. The basic ideas of this 2d 5-year plan were almost the same as that of the 1st 5-year plan, the stabilization of the national welfare and the completion of the defence-power. And from the viewpoint of the actual result of the 1st 5-year plan, the security and the stabilization of the national welfare of Manchoukuo especially were taken up as the most important among the ideas, and the promotion and the development of light industries which had as their purpose the supply of material for daily use of the people and the improvement of agricultural production were assigned in the plan equal importance with the parts relative to heavy industry and transportation and communication.

However, at the time when this plan was established, unexpectedly the Pacific War occurred, and it became impossible to execute the plan as it was. And since supplies of materials from Japan became gradually more difficult, while Japan's demands for imports of agricultural products, steel, aluminum and coal had increased accompanying the progress of the war, the necessary reinforcement of production was made by making up plans for increase of production in each year according to the change of the situation as mentioned above. However, practically it was difficult to fulfill Japan's requirements to some extent, and at the same time to reinforce the power of national defence of Manchoukuo and to increase the production of material for national welfare. Thus, in the end, we took measures to keep and stabilize the national welfare and to accept the requests of Japan by risking even the decrease of the power of national defence, which also the staff officers of the Kwantung Army who had responsibility for co-defence of

Manchoukuo well understood. A reason for taking such measures was also our faith in the existence and effect of the Russo-Japanese Neutrality Pact.

The above matters are instanced by the following concrete facts. First, the production of arms in Manchoukuo was the construction of training planes for Japan's needs, and production of guns and bullets mainly for the use of the Manchoukuoan forces. As for planes in 1944, the actual result of the construction of training planes was 784, and the total amount of gun production was around 25,000,000 Yen, which figures show that the production of arms was quite small. Second, the actual results of the production and distribution of steel, iron, aluminum and coal were that internal consumption accounted for the much greater part, and that the acquisitions of the Kwantung Army, except of aluminum, were of very small proportions.

(2) The Kwantung Army never issued any order at all with respect to the policies of the Manchoukuoan Government. There was the custom of liaison and preliminary conference between the Kwantung Army and the Manchoukuoan Government, regarding important policies which had connection with the national defence or policies which required conference with the Japanese Government.

From the viewpoint of defence, the Kwantung Army made in written form proposals of some abstract matters to the Manchoukuoan Government; such cases, however, were very rare. While the government took up and put into practice the matters proposed when they were proper and there were no difficulties accompanying their realization.

(3) I was often told by Mr. Takebe, Chief of General Affairs, that Commander-in-Chief of the Kwantung Army Umezu was quite careful toward the U S S R relations and wished that the government staff members would avoid so far as possible any action which might irritate the U S S R. In such circumstances, after his taking office in Hsinking the border between Manchoukuo and the U S S R was quite calm and trouble there greatly decreased.

OATH

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth, withholding nothing and adding nothing.

Takakura Tadashi (seal)

On this 7th day of January, 1948
At Tokyo

Deponent: Takakura Tadashi

I, Ikeda Sumihisa, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn to by the deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

On the same date
At Tokyo

Witness: Ikeda Sumihisa (seal)

Translation Certificate

I, Nishi Haruhiko, of the defense, hereby certify that I am conversant with the English and Japanese languages and that the foregoing is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation of the original document.

Nishi Haruhiko (seal)

Tokyo
9 January 1948